

REMARKS

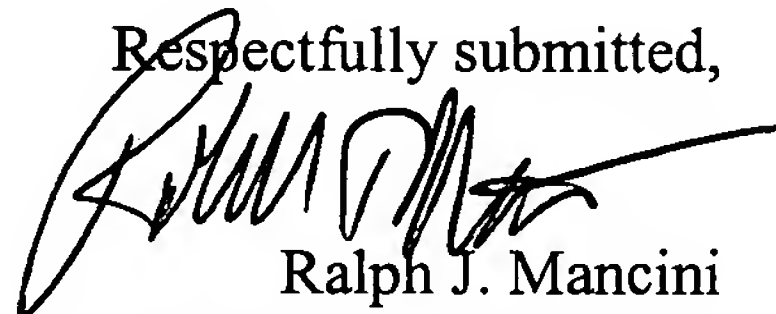
In the specification, a paragraph was added to claim priority to International Patent Application No. PCT/ EP2003/051025, filed December 16, 2003, European Patent Application No. 02102866.7, filed December 20, 2002, and US 60/435,040, filed December 20, 2002.

In the claims, Claims 14 and 15 were canceled. New claim 16 was added. Claims 3-13 were amended. In particular, the claims were amended to remove any multiple dependencies and conform to U.S. practice. Claims 1-13 and 16 are pending.

No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance in the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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